

## VOIP OVER ACCESS NETWORK

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system and method are disclosed for controlling access networks directly via a packet network gateway that is itself controlled by a remote call agent. In one embodiment, the gateway performs translation between access network protocol signaling and gateway control protocol messaging such that, to the call agent, the gateway appears to be physically connected to a group of subscribers directly, and to the access network, the gateway appears  
10 to function as a circuit-switched network. In one application, a gateway according to the present invention thus allows existing access network devices to connect directly to a packet network without having to pass through an intervening PSTN circuit switch.